

Symbols & Celebrations

Enduring Understanding

People honor the United States through celebrations of leaders, national symbols and holidays.

Essential Questions

What is the importance of symbols?

What national holidays are celebrated in the United States?

Who are the current leaders of the nation and state?

How do celebrations help us to honor and remember events and people?

Students shall be able to:

C.4.K.3 — Identify the name and picture of the current President of the United States and current Governor of Arkansas

C.5.K.1 — Recognize national symbols that represent American democracy:

- *American flag*
- *Bald Eagle*
- *Statue of Liberty*
- *White House*
- *United States Constitution*

H.6.K.1 — Recognize celebrations and holidays as a way of remembering and honoring events and people of the past:

- *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- *Presidents' Day*
- *Memorial Day*
- *Independence Day*
- *Labor Day*
- *Constitution Day*
- *Columbus Day*
- *Veterans Day*
- *Thanksgiving*

Materials Needed/Attachments

- *art supplies*
- *picture of the current Arkansas Governor (contact the Governor's office or find online)*
- *picture of the current United States President (online, current periodical)*

Vocabulary

holiday
Governor
memorial

President
Columbus
Martin Luther King, Jr.

veteran
constitution

independence
leader

celebration
symbol

Teaching Strategies

Students create or construct a American flag and display.

Show photographs of several different leaders – have students identify the current President of the United States and the Governor of Arkansas.

Discuss the importance of national holidays. Give students a list of holidays and have them create matching symbols. Examples include American flag for Independence Day, United States Constitution for Constitution Day, Pilgrims and turkey for Thanksgiving, White House for Presidents' Day, etc.

Invite guest speakers to discuss personal involvement with listed holidays.

For example, a veteran to discuss what it means to be a veteran and how they are honored or a living history character from a local museum to illustrate how we remember our past through role-playing exercises.

Ask students to bring family mementoes (photographs, medals, newspaper articles, letters, or uniforms) to honor family members who have a connection with a national holiday.

Assessments/Rubrics

Teacher observation of student participation and involvement.